

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In light of the above amendments and remarks to follow, reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 10 have been amended, and are the claims pending in this application.

Claims 1 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph ("Section 112") as being indefinite. Claims 1 and 10 have been amended to clarify that means of the network server are for performing the respectively recited functions with respect to a second terminal device currently being used by an authenticated user, and a first terminal device used by the authenticated user prior to the second terminal device currently being used by the authenticated user. Accordingly, based on the amendments to claims 1 and 10, the Section 112 rejections have been overcome and should be withdrawn.

Claims 1 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kawano et al. (U.S. Patent 6,697,836) in view of Shimamoto et al. (U.S. Patent 5,261,052)

The present claims now recite that the network server includes "means for identifying a second terminal device of the plurality of terminal devices, based on said updated information by said means for updating, currently being used by a user and for authenticating said user at the second terminal by referring to said registered information." In addition, the present claims require that the network server includes "means for transmitting to the authenticated user at the second terminal device currently being used by the authenticated user message arrival data when removable memory of the user is inserted into the second terminal device currently being used by the authenticated user, wherein the message arrival data indicates message information addressed to an electronic mail address of

the authenticated user and stored at the network server, wherein the message information arrived at the network server after a response by the network server to an erasure request transmitted by a first terminal device used by the authenticated user prior to the second terminal device currently being used by the authenticated user and before the updating of the registration information to identify the second terminal device as currently being used by the authenticated user." Further, the presently claimed invention requires "wherein, in response to said authenticated user (i) requesting, at the second terminal device currently being used by said authenticated user, the message information stored in the network server and indicated by the message arrival data transmitted from the network server and (ii) switching the removable memory of the user from being loaded into the first terminal device to being loaded into the second terminal device compatible with the second data format, before the message information is transmitted from the network server, the message information indicated by the message arrival data if in [a first data format incompatible with the second data format of the second terminal device] is converted to the second data format and is transmitted to the second terminal device." (Claim 1 (emphasis added); claim 10 includes similar limitations).

Thus, according to the claimed invention, message arrival data may be transmitted to an authenticated user at a second terminal device currently being used by the authenticated user, so as to notify the authenticated user of message information addressed to the electronic mail address of the user which is stored at the network server, and which arrived at the network server after the network server responded to "an erasure request" transmitted by a first terminal device which the authenticated user had used prior to the second terminal device

currently being used by the authenticated user and before the registration information has been updated at the network server to identify the second terminal device as being currently used by the user. (See specification, for example, at pg. 22, ln. 9-15, pg. 23, ln. 12-21). Further, following the transmission of the message arrival data to the second terminal device, the message information addressed to the electronic address of the user and stored at the network server may be transmitted to the second terminal device, in response to the authenticated user requesting at the second terminal device the message information and based on the removable memory of the user being switched from being loaded into the first terminal device to being loaded into the second terminal device, where the data format of the message information is converted, as needed, to the second data format of the second terminal device. (See specification, for example, at page 41, ln. 2-6, 23-25; pg. 42, ln. 1 and 11-15).

The Examiner admitted that Kawano et al. does not disclose transmitting message arrival data at the network server of data indicating message information addressed to the electronic mail address of the user; and receiving a confirmation from the authenticated user requesting transmission, to the second terminal device currently being used by the authenticated user, of the message information indicated by the message arrival data, as required by the claimed invention. In addition, the cited portions of Kawano et al. do not appear to disclose or suggest that the message information(indicated by the message arrival data), which is stored at the network server, arrived at the network server after the network server responded to an erasure request from the first terminal device that the user used prior to the second terminal device currently being used by the user and before the registration information for the authenticated user in the

network server was updated to identify the second terminal device as being currently being used by the authenticated user. Further, the applied portions of Kawano et al. apparently fail to disclose transmitting the message information (indicated by the message arrival data) stored in the network server, based on a request from the authenticated user at the second terminal device currently being used by the authenticated user, and where the removable memory of a user has been switched from being loaded into the first terminal device to being loaded in the second terminal device, before the message information is transmitted from the network server, as required by the claimed invention. Therefore, the applied portions of Kawano et al. do not appear to disclose transmitting the message arrival data to the user, and transmitting message information addressed to the email address of the user and indicated by the message arrival data, and where the message information is converted, as needed, to the data format of the second terminal device currently being used by the authenticated user, in response to a request by the authenticated user at the second terminal device, as required by the present claims.

Shimamoto et al. does not cure the deficiencies of Kawano et al. regarding the requirements of the claimed invention. The cited portions of Shimamoto et al. appear to concern a server transmitting message information for a user (UID) to an "appropriate" destination workstation, which workstation is determined by the server in accordance with an "allowable time" condition set by the user, based on a request for delivery of the message information received at the server from the sender of the message information. (Col. 9, ln. 47-Col. 10, ln. 2; see also Col. 4, ln. 40-42). Nowhere does Shimamoto et al. appear to disclose transmitting stored message information indicated by message arrival data to the second

terminal device currently being used by a user, in response to a request by the user at the second terminal device currently being used by the user and where the removable memory of the user has been switched to the second terminal device before the message information stored in the network server has been transmitted from the network server, as required by the claimed invention.

Accordingly, for at least these reasons, the combination of Kawano *et al.* and Shimamoto *et al.* fails to meet all of the recited limitations of the present invention, and the rejected claims should now be allowed.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue.

If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that he/she telephone applicant's attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which he might have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

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Respectfully submitted,

By

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